

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance in view of the foregoing amendment and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

The Applicant and the undersigned wish to thank Examiner Nguyen and SPE Vo for the courtesies extended during the interview of April 6, 2004. the amendment discussed and the arguments made are repeated herein for the record.

Claims 1-6 and 24 remain pending. Claims 13-18 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Non-elected Claims 7-12, 19 –23 and 27-35 have also been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicant notes with appreciation the Examiner's indication that claim 26 contains allowable subject matter. The limitations of allowable dependent claim 26 and intervening claim 25 have been incorporated into claim 24 so that claim 24 should now be allowed.

Claims 1-6,13-18 and 24-26 [sic; 25] were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Bayha et al in view of Baudino et al. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

A feature of the invention as defined in claims 1-6 is that cover 10 is pressed against the housing 19, the cover is tacked welded to the housing, and then the periphery of the cover is welded to the housing. As suggested by SPE Vo, claim 1 has been amended above to explicitly state that the large-diameter portion of the cover is welded to the first end portion of the housing over the tack-welded overlap. It is noted that SPE Vo suggested this amendment as appropriate for clarity and indicated that such an amendment would be entered at this stage because the recited feature was implicit in the method steps previously recited.

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Bayha and Baudio et al do not teach or in any way suggest the claimed step of tack welding the cover to the housing. Moreover, because Bayha does not teach and does not require tack welding the cover or welding while pressing the cover against the housing, because of the presence of crimping indentations 20 and groove 16, it would be unobvious to modify Bayha to include the tack welding and/or pressing steps specifically claimed by applicant.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-6 is solicited.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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